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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A topical ointment comprising from about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 89% (by total weight of the ointment) of an emollient, from about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 50% (by total weight of the ointment) of a structurant, and from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 40% (by total weight of the ointment) of a rheology enhancer.

2. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the emollient is present in an amount of from about 30% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 80% (by total weight of the ointment).

3. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the emollient is present in an amount of from about 60% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 80% (by total weight of the ointment).

4. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the structurant is present in an amount of from about 20% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 40% (by total weight of the ointment).

5. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the rheology enhancer is present in an amount of from about 0.5% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 30% (by total weight of the ointment).

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6. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the rheology enhancer is present in an amount of from about 1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 25% (by total weight of the ointment).

7. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ointment has a process temperature viscosity of from about 50 cPs to about 50,000 cPs.

8. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ointment has a process temperature viscosity of from about 75 cPs to about 10,000 cPs.

9. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the topical ointment has a process temperature viscosity of from about 80 cPs to about 5,000 cPs.

10. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ointment further comprises an additional ingredient selected from the group consisting of antifoaming agents, antimicrobial actives, antivirul actives, antifungal actives, antiseptic actives, antioxidants, cosmetic astringents, drug astringents, biological additives, colorants, deodorants, film formers, fragrances, lubricants, natural moisturizing agents, skin conditioning agents, skin exfoliating agents, skin protectants, solvents, hydrophilic surfactants, and UV absorbers.

11. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein emollient is selected from the group consisting of petrolatum, mineral oil, mineral jelly, isoparaffins, vegetable oils, avocado oil, borage oil, canola oil, castor oil,

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chamomile, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, evening primrose oil, safflower oil, sunflower oil, soybean oil, sweet almond, and the like, lanolin, partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, sterols and derivatives, polydimethylsiloxanes, methicone, cyclomethicone, dimethicone, dimethiconol, trimethicone, organo-siloxanes, silicone elastomer, gums, resins, fatty acid esters (esters of C₆-C₂₈ fatty acids and C₆-C₂₈ fatty alcohols), glyceryl esters and derivatives, fatty acid ester ethoxylates, alkyl ethoxylates, C₁₂-C₂₈ fatty alcohols, C₁₂-C₂₈ fatty acids, C₁₂-C₂₈ fatty alcohol ethers, Guerbet alcohols, Guerbet Acids, Guerbet Esters, and combinations thereof.

12. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the structurant has a melting point of from about 45°C to about 85°C.

13. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the structurant is selected from the group consisting of animal waxes, vegetable waxes, mineral waxes, synthetic waxes, polymers, bayberry wax, beeswax, stearyl dimethicone, stearyl trimethicone, C₂₀-C₂₂ dimethicone, C₂₀-C₂₂ trimethicone, C₂₄-C₂₈ dimethicone, C₂₀-C₂₂ trimethicone, C₁₀ alkyl dimethicone, candelilla wax, carnauba, ceresin, cetyl esters, stearyl benzoate, behenyl benzoate, esparto, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, hydrogenated jojoba oil, hydrogenated jojoba wax, hydrogenated microcrystalline wax, hydrogenated rice bran wax, japan wax, jojoba buffer, jojoba esters, jojoba wax, lanolin wax, microcrystalline wax, mink wax, motan acide wax, motan wax, ouricury wax, ozokerite parrafin, PEG-6 beeswax, PEG-8 wax, rezowax, rice bran wax, shellac wax, spent grain wax, spermaceti wax, synthetic spermaceti wax, synthetic beeswax,

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synthetic candelilla wax, synthetic carnuba wax, synthetic japan wax, synthetic jojoba wax, C₁₄-C₂₈ fatty acid ethoxylates and C₁₄-C₂₈ fatty ethers, C₁₄-C₂₈ fatty alcohols, C₁₄-C₂₈ fatty acids, polyethylene, oxidized polyethylene, ethylene-alpha olefin copolymers, ethylene homopolymers, C₁₈-C₄₅ olefins, poly alpha olefins, hydrogenated vegetable oils, polyhydroxy fatty acid esters, polyhydroxy fatty acid amides, ethoxylated fatty alcohols and esters of C₁₂-C₂₈ fatty acids, and C₁₂-C₂₈ fatty alcohols, and combinations thereof.

14. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of combinations of alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, di-functional alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, combinations of alpha olefins and isobutene, ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, polyethylene polyisobutylenes, polyisobutenes, polyisobutylene, dextrin palmitate, dextrin palmitate ethylhexanoate, stearoyl inulin, stearalkonium bentonite, distearadimonium hectorite, and stearalkonium hectorite, styrene/butadiene/styrene copolymers, styrene/isoprene/styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene copolymers, (styrene-butadiene) n polymers, (styrene-isoprene) n polymers, styrene-butadiene copolymers, and styrene-ethylene/propylene copolymers.

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15. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 further comprising from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 25% (by total weight of the ointment) of a particulate material.

16. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 15 wherein the particulate material is present in an amount of from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 10% (by total weight of the ointment).

17. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 15 wherein the particulate material is selected from the group consisting of talc, mica, titanated mica, iron oxide titanated mica, magnesium carbonate, calcium carbonate, magnesium silicate, spherical silica, hydrated silica, silica beads, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, nylon powder, polyethylene powder, ethylene acrylates copolymer powder, methacrylate powder, polystyrene powder, silk powder, crystalline cellulose, starch, bismuth oxychloride, guanine, kaolin, bentonite, hectorite, laponite, chalk, diatomaceous earth, microsponges, microcapsules, boron nitride, and combinations thereof.

18. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 15 wherein the particulate material is selected from the group consisting of talc, polyethylene, hydrated silica, kaolin, bentonite, hectorite, laponite, titanium, titanated mica, microsponges, microcapsules, and mixtures thereof.

19. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 further comprising from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) of a

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surfactant having an HLB in the range of from about 2 to about 7.

20. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 19 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan sequioleate, sorbitan trioleate, glyceryl stearate, sorbitan stearate, sorbitan tristearate, and mixtures thereof.

21. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 19 further comprising from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) of a hydrophilic skin care active.

22. (original) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 19 wherein the hydrophilic skin care active is selected from the group consisting of botanicals, glycerin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, propylene glycol, sodium PCA, sodium lactate, sorbitol, and mixtures thereof.

23. (original) A topical ointment comprising from about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 89% (by total weight of the ointment) of an emollient, from about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 50% (by total weight of the ointment) of a structurant, from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 40% (by total weight of the ointment) of a rheology enhancer, from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) of a particulate material, and from about 0.1% (by total weight of the ointment) to about 10% (by total weight of the ointment) of a low HLB surfactant.

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24. (new) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and styrene; petrolatum and styrene copolymers; polyisobutylene; mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; hydrogenated polyisobutene and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; hydrogenated polyisobutene and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; petrolatum and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isononyl isononanoate and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isododecane and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isoheptadecane and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isopropyl palmitate and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; and combinations thereof.

25. (new) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 24 wherein the rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and styrene; petrolatum and styrene copolymers; polyisobutylene; and combinations thereof.

26. (new) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene

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copolymers; mineral oil and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and styrene; petrolatum and styrene copolymers; polyisobutylene; mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; hydrogenated polyisobutene and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; hydrogenated polyisobutene and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; petrolatum and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isononyl isononanoate and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isododecane and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isohexadecane and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; isopropyl palmitate and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; and combinations thereof.

27. (new) The topical ointment as set forth in claim 26 wherein the rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of mineral oil and ethylene/propylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and butylene/ethylene/styrene copolymers; mineral oil and styrene; petrolatum and styrene copolymers; polyisobutylene; and combinations thereof.